ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD AT THE

BEULAH CHURCH,

CONECUH COUNTY, ALABAMA,

COMMENCING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1860.

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1860.

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Beulah Church, September 22, 1860.

The Bethlehem Baptist Association met pursuant to adjournment. The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder C. L. Thornton, from John 18, a part of the 36th verse—"My kingdom is not of this world."

After a recess of about an hour, the Delegates assembled in the Meeting House, when the Association was called to order by Elder W. C. Morrow, the former Moderator, and after prayer by Elder J. E. Bell, was declared ready for business, G. L. Lee, acting clerk, *pro tem.*

Brethren, C. L. Thornton, E. G. Autrey, A. J. Robinson and Y. M. Rabb were requested to read the letters. The letters were read, contents noted, and the names of the Delegates enrolled. (See tabular statement.)

On motion of Bro. F. Straughn, the Delegates proceeded to the election of Elder Andrew Jay, Moderator, Eld. Geo. L. Lee, Clerk.

The Moderator then appointed the committee on preaching: viz. Eld. W. C. Morrow, F. Straughn, W E. Carter, A. Hendrix, and the deacons of the Beulah Church. Invitation was extended to Ministering brethren, whereupon Elder J. Thomas from the Zion Association, J. E. Bell and J. G. Thames, from the Alabama Association; and James Rabb, from the Pine Barren Association, applied and received seats with us.

Petitionary letters for membership having been called for the Penesolo Church and the Coon Hill Church presented letters for membership, without messengers. After some remarks as to the propriety of receiving newly constituted churches without delegates, our missionary Elder C. L. Thornton stated, that he aided in the constitution of the Penesolo Church, and that it was constituted upon the articles of Gospel faith. On a motion being made for its reception, a majority were in favor of receiving the church. The following resolution was then adopted.

Resolved: That the letter from Coon Hill Church be laid upon the table until Monday morning.

The following standing committees were then appointed by the Moderator: viz.

On State of Religion and Digest of Letters.—Elder W. C. Morrow, Eld. P. S. Milner, G. M. Goldsmith, Y. M. Rabb and D. Hestle.

On Domestic Missions.—Elder C. L. Thornton, J. L. Swan, W. Archee, ——McWimberly and T. R Pope.

On Sabbath Schools.—Elders G. L Lee, J. P. Myers and brothers T. A. McIver, W. E. Carter and J. A Williamson.

On Correspondence.—A. J. Robinson, E. G. Autrey, F. J. Billingslea, J. T. Fountain and Elder J. Briers.

On Queries and Requests —Eld. Z. Williams, Eld. P. S. Milner, Elder N. Parker, J. Lovelace and D. Robbins.

On Finance.—R. R. Mosely, R. P. Stallworth, A. Thomas, W. E. Milner and A. Hendrix.

The committee on Preaching reported the following order of exercises for the Sabbath: To the whites in the forenoon, Elder J. E Bell—in the afternoon, Eld. R. A Massy. To the colored people in the forenoon Eld. J. L. Briers—in the afternoon, Eld. John P. Myers.

The Association then adjourned to meet on Monday morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder Jno. McWilliams.

Sabbath, Sept. 23, 1860.

Brethren Bell, Massy, Briers and Myers fulfilled the order of their respective appointments with clearness and power to large and attentive audiences. After the close of the morning services, a public collection was taken up for Domestic missions. Amount received, $29 50.

Monday, Sept. 24, 1860

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator. The minutes were read, statistics corrected and received. Rules of order were then read. An opportunity was given for the presentation of other letters. Correspondence being called for, a package of minutes was received at the hands of Elder J. E. Bell and J. G. Thames, in which was included a printed letter of correspondence from the Alabama Association. Also at the hands of Elder J. Thames a package of the minutes of the Zion Association, and from the Pine Barren Association, a package of minutes by her Messenger J. Rabb. These brethren received the hand of fellowship, and were invited to seats with us.

The committee on preaching further reported: That Elder J. E. Bell preach at the stand in the forenoon, and Elder Z. Williams in the afternoon. The letter from Coon Hill Church was taken up and acted upon. After some explanatory remarks, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved: That a committee of five be appointed, consisting of Brethren Elders W. C. Morrow and P. S. Milner, Bros. Y. M. Rabb, F. Straughn and A. Hendrix, to take the letter examine it, and report as to the legality of receiving or rejecting the Church. The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved: That we reconsider the act of this body in receiving the Pensolo Church.

After some appropriate remarks it was agreed to submit the case to the committee acting in relation to the Coon Hill Church.

Reports of standing committees were then called for. The report on

Queries and Requests was received and adopted. (App. A.) The committee on Domestic missions reported. The report adopted. (App. B.) the report on the State of Religion was read and adopted. (App. C.)

The committee on Sabbath Schools allowed until the afternoon to report. The committee on correspondence granted further time in which to report. The summary report of the Missionary, Elder C. L. Thornton, published in the South Western Baptist was read and gave much satisfaction.

The report of the Missionary Elder C. L. Thornton for the last years services, in the bounds of the Bethlehem Association was read and adopted. (App. D.)

The report of the Executive Board was received and adopted. (App. E.) The committee on Correspondence reported the letters written, accompanied by a package of minutes to the various corresponding bodies. The election of a new Executive Board being in order was postponed for the time being. The Regular order of business was suspended, and an opportunity given to Elder J. E. Bell to present to the body, the claims of a Female College of high order located in Greenville, Ala. After some remarks by various brethren, the following resolution was adopted by the body :—Whereas, our brethren of the Alabama Association have determined to locate a Female College of *high order* in Greenville, Ala., therefore

Be it Resolved :—That we heartily endorse the enterprise, and commend it to the patronage and support of the brethren within our bounds.

Report of the Special Committee read, received and adopted. (App. F.) The Association then adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Regular order of business was resumed. On motion being made, Elder W. C. Morrow was requested to assist the Clerk in writing some letters, in order to forward the business. The report on Sabbath Schools was read received and adopted. (App. G.)

The item of raising funds as a basis of representation in the next State Convention was next taken up. After some very appropriate remarks by several brethren, a collection was taken, amounting to $17 00, made by the voluntary contribution of individuals.

The report of the Finances and Auditing Committee was read and adopted. (App. H.)

The order was then made that the Treasurer settle with the Missionary, C. L. Thornton, for the present year. An order was also made, that the committee of Finance add to their report the amount received for the State Convention, to wit : $17 00.

The following brethren volunteered to go as delegates to the State Convention, viz : Elders W. C. Morrow, N. Parker, A. Jay, Z. Williams and P. S. Milner.

The following brethren volunteered to attend, as Messengers, the various corresponding bodies : to wit, Pine Barren Association, Elder G. L. Lee, Y. M. Rabb, H. M. Andrews, J. M. Travis, F. Straughn and Elder

W. C. Morrow. Providence Association, Elder W. C. Morrow ; Bethel, W. E. Carter ; Alabama, Elders C. L. Thornton, G. L Lee, P. S. Milner and brethren T. K. Pope, and J. C. Lovelace ; Zion, Elder N. Parker, A. J. Robinson, Elder A. W. Jones and M. J. Herrington.

Elder W. C. Morrow was instructed to write letters of dismission for the following churches, viz : Red Rock and Hopewell. (Cov. Co) The Clerk was requested to superintend the publishing of the minutes and to receive $25 00 compensation for his services. The following resolution was adopted : *Resolved*, That the next annual session of this Association be held with the Brooklyn Church, Conecuh County. The Treasurer's report was then read and adopted. (App. I.) There being a deficit of $56 90, in the salary of the Missionary for the past year, a collection was taken amounting to that sum, and the Missionary settled with in full by the Treasurer.

The following order was then made.

Ordered : That the Treasurer pay to the Clerk the fund for minutes. Amt. $78 00

Elder Jno. McWilliams was appointed to deliver the Introductory discourse at the next assembling of the Association, and Elder Z. Williams alternate.

On a motion being made by Bro. F. Straughn, to the effect that three Ministers be appointed a committee to visit the Blakely Church, for the purpose of inquiring into her condition, and the cause of her failing to be represented in the Association, according to the requirements of the Constitution, and that they report to the Association at the next annual session, a discussion arose as to the object of Bro. F. Straughn's motion, whereupon, a motion was made by Elder W. C. Morrow, and carried that Bro. Straughn's motion be reduced to writing. Thereupon the following resolution was penned, offered and adopted :

Resolved, That there be a committee of three ministers appointed to visit the Blakely church, and inquire into her condition, and to assist her in any way she may desire, either in an effort to revive or dissolve. The committee to report at the next meeting of the Association. Elders W. C. Morrow, G. L. Lee and J. L. Briers were appointed committee.

On motion of Bro. Y. M. Rabb, the following resolutions were adopted :

Resolved, That this Association, discontinue her Missionary, and recommend to the churches to send up as much money as they are able, as a general Associational fund to be disposed of as this body may direct or as the church may direct.

Resolved, That the Executive Board be discontinued. Bro. R. P. Stallworth was re-elected Treasurer for the ensuing year. The following was then adopted :

Resolved, That we tender Bro. W. C. Morrow our thanks for the zeal and ability with which he has presided over our body as Moderator for the last three years.

On motion being made, the Association, after an interesting and harmonious meeting adjourned to meet with the Brooklyn Church, in Cone-

cuh County on Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in Sept. A. D. 1861. Whilst singing, the parting hand was extended, after which the concluding prayer was offered by Elder Z. Williams.

ANDREW JAY, *Moderator.*

GEORGE L. LEE, *Clerk.*

NOTE.—In making out the minutes, I was compelled through the press of business, to rely so much upon my memory that there may be some omissions ; if so, it is unintentional. G. L. LEE.

APPENDIX :

(A.)

Report of Committee on Queries and Requests.

Your committee on Queries and Requests beg leave to report that they have had under consideration a request from two churches, viz : The Red Rock and Hopewell, (Cov.), asking letters of dismission. Your committee deem the cause given by them for said application reasonable, and recommend that their request be granted.

Your committee report that this is the only business before them, except the requests from Montgomery Hill and Brooklyn Churches, each requesting the next Association meeting be held with them, which, with due deference consider appropriately a matter requiring the action of your Body. Respectfully submitted,

Z. WILLIAMS, *Chairman.*

(B.)

Report of Domestic Missions.

Your Committee on Domestic Missions are happy to state that the labors of your Missionary have been greatly blessed, and that he has been so successful in getting the Mission field supplied with resident Pastors that it is our opinion that it will not be advisable to continue a Missionary in the present field at least for the ensuing year.

C. L. THORNTON, *Ch'm.*

(C.)

Report of Committee on the State of Religion.

Your committee on the State of Religion beg leave to report, that from the information contained in the letters from the churches to the Association, we observe that while a few of the churches have been blessed with refreshing seasons from the presence of the Lord, the great majority have been only about stationary, while others complain of coldness and lukewarmness.

There is never an effect without a cause, and we are constrained to the belief that this want of efficiency on the part of the churches of this Association is the fault of the churches themselves. We would therefore

suggest to all that they prayerfully seek to know and remedy the evils that may exist.

We fear that many of the churches are remiss in discipline, and if so we cannot expect that God will bless us We also feal that the all-important duty of prayer is sadly neglected, for unless we are regular and sincere in secret, family and church prayer meeting, supplications at a throne of grace. we have not the assurance of the divine power in the prosperity of christians and conversion of sinners. In view of this state of affairs we suggest that each church in the bounds of this Association, at such time as may suit their convenience, appropriate at least one day during our next Associational year as a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer. Respectfully submitted, W. C. MORROW, *Ch'm.*

(D.)

Missionary's Report.

Your Missionary submits the following quarterly report: Sermons, 30; Miles traveled, 1035; Lectures, 10; Amt. collected, $78; Tracts distributed, 343; Baptisms, 5; Sermons preached for me, 28; additional collection, $5; Ordinations, Brethren Lynzy and Bryars to the ministry —Brethren Dukes and McDavid, deacons; Churches constituted———. One to be constituted at the Escambia, Nov. next. Resident preachers at Pensacola and its vicinity Mitchel, Johnson and Irvin. In the upper regions of Escambia County, Lynzy, Bryars and Bro. Stewart. Locating in the region of Blakely, Baldwin Co., Bro. I. Beck.(*)

C. L. THORNTON, *Missionary.*

(E.)

Report of the Executive Board.

Your Executive Board are happy to be able to report that they are of opinion that Bro. C. L. Thornton, your Missionary, by the blessing of God, has so far succeeded in the Missionary field that that portion of your bounds can now be supplied by the word of God without Missionary labor and would ask that the office of an executive Board be discontinued.

W. C. MORROW, *Pres. Exec. Board.*

(F.)

Report of the Special Committee.

Your Special Committee, to whom were referred the petitionary letters of the Penesolo and Coon Hill churches, respectfully report, that they regret they cannot recommend the reception of the churches, from the fact that it would be violating the fifth clause of the Constitution which this body has for its government, not being represented by membership. We hope that they may be at our next meeting represented, when it will afford us pleasure to receive them upon the terms of the Constitution.

Y. M. RABB, W. C. MORROW,
F. STRAUGHN, AARON HENDRIX. P. S. MILNER,

(G.)

Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to make the following report. The question as to whether or not a Sabbath School should be organ-

(*) This Report is very imperfect, owing to the fact that Bro. Thornton was compelled to submit it from memory, as his memoranda were mislaid. The report does not embrace the whole year.

ized and maintained in connection with every church is no longer a matter of discussion; for it is generally conceded that the interests of Zion at large demand the adoption of such a course. We would therefore recommend the following to the consideration of the Association.

First. That a Sabbath School be organized in every church within our bounds, where practicable. By the adoption of such a course, the brethren of each church would be called together every Sabbath day, and could "under their own vine and figtree," "worship God in the beauty of holiness," and teach their children the truth as it is in Jesus.

Sec. That the delegates from each church be requested to act as a committee to bring the subject before their respective churches.

For the performance of this duty, rest assured we shall have great reward here, but greater hereafter.

Respectfully Submitted, GEO. L. LEE, *Chairman.*

(H)

Report of Auditing and Finance Committee.

Your committee report the following amounts, for the objects designated.

Churches.	Minutes.	Dom. Missions	Churches.	Minutes.	Dom. Missions.
	$	$		$1 50	$
Blakely			Bethel		
Stockton			Sepulga	1 35	
Montgomery Hill	2 50	23 00	Hopewell, Cou. Co.	2 20	
Little River	2 25	10 00	Murder Creek	2 00	10 00
Claiborne	3 50	26 60	Arkadelphia	2 50	
Salem	3 00	10 00	Catawba Spring		
Zion	3 50	12 45	Beulah	4 00	30 00
Monroeville	5 00	5 50	Shilo	1 00	
Philadelphia	2 00	7 00	Pilgrim's Rest	1 00	4 00
Bellville	5 55	36 50	Pensacola	5 00	
New Hope	2 00	26 00	Evergreen	2 00	16 50
Brushy Creek	1 50	4 25	Olive Branch	3 00	7 00
Oaky Streak	50		Elim	1 00	
Hopewell, Cov. Co.	1 00		Red Rock	1 00	
Macedonia			Sardis	1 25	10 00
Milton			Pleasant Hill		
Union	2 00		Old Town	2 50	13 00
Georgiana	2 00		Pine Barren	1 00	
Brooklyn	3 25	28 50	Shady Grove	1 00	
New Prospect	2 10		Sunday Collection		29 30

State Convention, (General Fund).....$17 00
Rev. Basil Manly,..... 1 50
Bible Board,..... 50

Respectfully Submitted, R. R. MOSELY, *Chairman.*

(I.)

Treasurer's Report.

R. P. Stallworth in account with the Bethlehem Association.

DR.		CR.	
To Sabbath Collection.....	$ 29 30	By am't paid G. L. Lee for Minutes.....	$ 78 00
" amount Finance Com'tee	392 30	" am't paid C. L. Thornton, Missionary	343 10
" amount rec'd for State Convention.....	17 00	" am't paid W. C. Morrow for State Convention....	17 00
" amount rec'd for Basil Manly	1 50	" am't paid W. C. Morrow for B. Manly.....	1 50
		" am't paid W. C. Morrow for Bible Board.....	50
	$440 10		$440 10

Respectfully Submitted,

R. P. STALLWORTH, *Treas.*

A LIST

of the names of Ministers belonging to the churches of the Association.

[Ordained Ministers, in small caps; Licentiates, in italics.]

A. J. LAMBERT.....	Claiborne	Post Office,
J. McWILLIAMS.....	Monroeville	"
G. L. LEE.....	Burnt Corn	"
W. C. MORROW.....	Bellville	"
A. W. JONES.....	Rural Hill	"
ANDREW JAY.....	Sparta	"
J. SMITH.....	"	"
M. P. COOPER.....	Sepulga	"
P. S. MILNER.....	Georgiana	"
Z. WILLIAMS.....	Brooklyn	"
T. BENNETT.....	Starlington	"
N. PARKER.....	Oaky Streak	"
J. J. COOPER.....	Starlington	"
L. H. OSWALT.....	Loango	"
A. D. STEWART.....	"	"
J. MITCHELL.....	Pensacola	"
Z. G. HENDERSON.....	Pensacola	"
C. L. THORNTON.....	"	"
J. L. BRIERS.....	"	"
" " LINDSEY.....	"	"
" " JOHNSON.....	"	"
" " IRVIN.....	"	"
Jno. P. Myers.....	Didasko	"
J. D. Beck.....	"	"
W. A. Jones.....	"	"

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICE	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	DELEGATES.	BAPTIZED.	Recd by Letter.	DISMISSED.	EXCLUDED.	RESTORED.	DEAD.	WHITES.	COLORED.	TOTAL.	Sabbath Meetings.
FIRST DISTRICT.														
Blakely	Blakely			Not Represented.							85	26	111	
Stockton	Stockton			Letter and no Delegates.							45	35	80	
Montgomery Hill	Tensaw	A. J. Lambert.	J. Booth, jun.	* H. L. Harris, T. Starke	—	—	3	—	—	—	82	26	108	1
Little River	Mount Pleasant	A. J. Lambert.	J. F. Boyles	A J. Lambert, E Steadham	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	35	69	
Claiborne	Claiborne	A. J. Lambert.	R. I. Draughon	A. Lambert, W. E. Carter, * R. I. Draugh-	5	3	2	—	—	1	45	106	153	4
Salem	Claiborne	Geo. L. Lee	J. T. Fountain	S. Hixon, J. T. Fountain [on	18	1	8	—	—	—	80	8	88	2
Zion	Monroeville	J. McWilliams.	W D. McWilliam	J McWilliams, J. H. Wiggins, T. R Pope.	1	8	3	2	—	—	86	13	99	1
Monroeville	Monroeville	A. J. Lambert.	J. T. Henderson	D. Hestle, J Daily, J. T. Henderson	6	6	6	2	—	—	84	42	126	3
Philadelphia	Clauselville	J. McWilliams.	C. Newberry	* Wm. Helton, J. R. Thames	—	5	14	1	1	1	78	30	108	4
Bethany	Burnt Corn	W. C. Morrow.	R. Fowler	R. R. Mosley, G. L. Lee, W. C. Nevils	6	2	—	—	—	2	80	83	163	1
SECOND DISTRICT.														
Bellville	Bellville	A. Jay	D. Robbins	A. W. Jones, F. Straughn, D. Robbins, S. [Nash, H. M. Andrews	44	4	8	2	—	2	104	136	240	4
Hopewell, Con. Co.	Sparta	J Smith	J. Owens	M. Owens, * J. Warrat	17	—	3	7	—	—	27	—	27	4
Murder Creek	Sparta	J. Smith	J. H. Brewton	J. Moore, J. Smith	7	1	—	4	—	—	22	2	22	3
Arkadelphia	Rural Hill	Geo. L Lee	Jas. Norred	J. Norred, * Eli Salter	3	2	7	3	1	—	68	18	86	3
Catawba Spring	Fort Crawford		J. J. Jackson	NOT REPRESENTED.										
Beulah	Sparta	W. C. Morrow.	E. G. Autrey	A. Jay, W C. Morrow, T Kindal, O. F. Nunnellee J. M. Travis, E. G. Autrey A. D. Cary	22	4	4	3	—	3	52	255	307	4
Shilo	Nathanville		B. E Murphy	B. E. Murphy, * M. Brown	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	6	1
Pilgrim's Rest	Fort Crawford	Z. Williams	B. L. Lovelace	F. A. McIver, J. C. Lovelace	1	—	—	1	—	—	25	17	42	3
Pensacola	Pensacola		A. Hendrix	A. Hendrix, W. J. Milner, J. L. Swan, C. [L. Thornton, W. A Jones	6	12	2	8	—	4	75	103	205	4
Evergreen	Evergreen	W. C. Morrow.	Y. M. Rabb	Y M Rabb, R. P. Stallworth	2	2	5	1	—	1	49	25	74	3
Olive Branch	Evergreen	A. Jay	J A. Williamson	J. M. Yates, J. A. Williamson	8	1	20	3	—	1	76	14	90	2
THIRD DISTRICT.														
New Hope	Sepulga	A. W. Jones	S. Maxwell	McWimberly, * A. J. McDonald	—	—	—	—	—	—	"	"	56	4
Brushy Creek	East Georgia	N. Parker.	J. H. Matthews	H. F. Burke, J. Green	2	2	7	—	—	—	32	2	34	1
Oaky Streak	Oaky Streak	N. Parker	J. T. Parker	N. Parker, * E Nix	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	10	3
†Hopewell, Cov. Co.	Conecuh River	L. H. Oswalt	D. McNiel	M. Snowden, J. M. Smith	12	6	15	1	—	—	46	19	65	1
Milton	Milton	"	J. Barnes	NOT REPRESENTED.									304	
Macedonia	Milton	"	S. B. Griffith	NOT REPRESENTED.									17	
Union	Sepulga	Geo. L Lee	F. J. Billingslea	F. J. Billingslea, S. Kendrick	13	11	3	—	—	1	28	16	44	1
Georgiana	Georgiana	P. S. Milner	E. C. Milner	P. S. Milner, W. Archee	—	—	3	—	—	—	45	8	53	4
Brooklyn	Brooklyn	Andrew Jay	A. J. Robinson	Z. Williams, C. Floyd, A. J. Robinson	3	—	1	2	—	2	60	67	127	3
New Prospect	Starlington	Geo. L. Lee	N Wright	Jno. P Myers, G. M. Goldsmith	22	8	3	—	—	—	47	20	67	4
Bethel	South Butler	T Bennett	H. H. Mobley	S Parker, S Pearson	1	8	1	5	—	—	40	4	44	3
Sepulga	James Town	L. H Oswalt	Wm. Barlow	J. M. Bullack, H. T. Jones	—	1	1	3	—	1	46	2	48	3
Elim	Lewis Station	N. Parker	M. J. Herrington	J. Parker, M. J. Herrington	9	1	3	1	1	—	25	19	44	2
†Red Rock	Milton	"	J. Sowel	J. A. Roberts, * J. Rhodes	7	3	1	—	—	—	37	—	37	3
Sardis	Georgiana	T. Bennett	G. Driver	D. J. Parsons, A. W. Wallis	2	9	—	—	—	—	22	—	22	2
Pleasant Hill	Pensacola	"	F. W. Miles	NOT REPRESENTED.									13	
Old Town	Evergreen	A. Jay	J. H. Stallworth	A. Thomas, S. P. Mason	11	2	—	—	—	—	66	9	75	1
Pine Barren	Pensacola	Missionary	J. L. Briers	J. L Briers	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	3
Shady Grove	Fort Crawford	"	L. Journagan	L. Journagan, L. Whik	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	12	1
					229	103	131	56	3	19	1704	1141	3235	

*Absentees.

†Dismissed.